

Animal Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: 10.02.13

Minutes Prepared By: Rose Armour

1. Purpose of Meeting

Review of the AAB working group recommendations and public input on Off-Leash Permits

2. Attendance at Meeting

Rob Blizzard	Marie Jensen	Kathy Galvin	Doug Beckmann
Debbie Donour	Jean Linman	Rachel Bellis	Rose Armour
Debra Griggs	Daphna Nachminovitch	Jamie O'Grady	Wynter Benda
Barbara Hays	Dorothy Winn	Jake Roos	Fredrick Sciulli
Tyler Carmack	Dr. Lindsay	Lt. Hackett	Kimberlie Young
Seth Cheshire		Jennifer Espiritu	David Freeman*

*Left due to emergency

3. Agenda

1. Review minutes from previous meetings
2. Present Working Committee Findings and Recommendations
3. Update on NACC Events
4. Comments/concerns from public

4. Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

- **Review of minutes from AAB meeting 8.07.2013**

Voted unanimously to accept minute from 8.07.2013 Board meeting.

- **Present Working Committee Findings and Recommendations**

- **Review of City of Norfolk Code Chapter 6.1 Animal Control and Welfare**

The Board went point by point and voted on each suggested change in the code that the working group recommended. Please see attached Code to reference recommended changes.

ARTICLE I:

6.1-2 Definitions:

- Proposed change to *Adequate Space* definition including prohibition on tethering – Voted unanimously to accept
- Proposed change to *Adequate Water* definition – Voted unanimously to accept
- Proposed change to *Dangerous Animal* definition – Voted unanimously to accept
- Proposed change to *Eartipped Community Cat* definition – All voted in favor except Nachminovitch who voted against
- Proposed change to *Exotic Animal* definition – Voted unanimously to accept
- Proposed change to *Home-based Rescue* definition – Voted unanimously to accept
- Proposed change to *Releasing Agency* definition – Voted unanimously to accept
- Proposed change to *Vicious Dog* definition – Voted unanimously to accept

6.1-3 Division of Animal Protection:

- Proposed changes were made to update the role of municipal offices and staff to reflect current practices. – Voted unanimously to accept

6.1-4 & 6.1-4.1 Notification by individual finding companion animals; penalty (NEW SECTION)

- Proposed changes were made to update the role of municipal offices and staff to reflect current practices. – Voted unanimously to accept
- Proposed change on how individuals report found animals – All voted in favor except Daphna Nachminovitch who voted against
- **DISCUSSION:** APU replied to questions and concerns for changes, namely the need for Good

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Samaritan laws to protect well intended citizens and the difficulty of non-professionals to ID and describe an animal with accuracy.

6.1-6 Animal Traps

- Proposed update to the municipal office responsible for and the fee for traps – Voted unanimously to accept

6.1-7 Keeping of certain animals within the city

- Amended to allow chickens – no vote was made as Council has already discussed and voted.

6.1-8 Limitation on keeping of dogs or cats

- Proposed changes were not voted on as changes were made to reflect changes made elsewhere.

6.1-9 Permits for companion pet dealers, grooming salons, pet shops, or sale of pets

- Proposed changes to prohibit the selling of dogs, cats or rabbits within the City of Norfolk – Voted unanimously to accept

6.1-10 Prohibition of keeping or exhibiting of wild, exotic or poisonous animals within the city

- Proposed changes to prohibit any person to keep wild, exotic or poisonous animals within the City of Norfolk – Voted unanimously to accept

6.1-16 Eartipped Community Cats (NEW SECTION)

- Eartipped community cats will be exempt from 6.1-8 (limits), 6.1-50 (licenses), 6.1-79 (at-large), 6.1-82 (a)(2) (abandoned), 6.1-84 (disposition) definition – All voted in favor except Daphna Nachminovitch who voted against

ARTICLE II:

6.1-50 License for dog or cat required

- Proposed change to allow registered releasing agencies to not be required to license animals in their care and custody – Voted unanimously to accept

6.1-50.1 Registration and microchipping of dogs and cats (NEW SECTION)

- Proposed changes to require microchipping of dogs and cats – the group did not vote at this time on this addition. Questions brought up were:
 - why 4 months to implant the device;
 - can there be an option to grandfather in those who already have a license; and
 - should this only cover new animal licenses?

The group will talk about this at a later meeting.

ARTICLE IV:

6.1-80 Dangerous Animals

- Proposed changes were to reflect State code Sec 3.2-6540 – Voted unanimously to accept

6.1-81 Vicious Animals

- Proposed changes were to reflect State code Sec 3.2-6540.1 – Voted unanimously to accept

6.1-82 Authority to impound animals found within city limits

- Proposed changes limits the reasons why an animal can be impounded to
 - Suffering a direct or immediate threat to its life, safety or health which the owner or custodian has failed or refused to remedy
 - Being abandoned
 - Being cruelly treated
- Proposed changes remove the following reason why an animal can be impounded
 - Being unlicensed
 - Being used for gaming or other illegal activity
 - Being a dangerous animal in violation of Section 6.1-80
 - Being a vicious animal in violation of section 6.1-81
 - A violation of section 6.1-8
 - A violation of section 6.1-10; or a Violation of any other state or federal law or regulation concerning animals; or A violation of section 6.1-76

– Voted unanimously to accept

ARTICLE V:

6.1-84 Disposition of feral animals found at-large

- Proposed changes requiring feral animals be kept for at least three days – All voted in favor except Daphna Nachminovitch who abstained

6.1-85 City animal care center; confinement and disposition of stray animals

- Proposed changes to exclude eartipped cats from being considered stray or at-large – All voted in favor

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- except Daphna Nachminovitch who voted against
- **DISCUSSION:** The question was asked by Barbara Hays if this would mean that eartipped cats are exempt from nuisance animal laws, licensing, etc?

ARTICLE VI:

6.1-91 Breeding Permit (NEW SECTION) – to reflect Richmond VA Code of ordinances Part II, Chapter 10, Article III Division 5...section 10-228 and 10-229.

- Proposed changes prohibits owners from having an unneutered or unspayed dog or cat without securing an annual breeding permit – All voted in favor except Dorothy Winn who abstained

○ **Response to AAB Recommendations to City Council**

The response from Ron H William, Jr. was gone through recommendation by recommendation.

- **Update on NACC Events**
- October 19 - 20 VB SPCA Adoption Event
- Weekly Compass Pet Feature
- Bark in the Park (10.05.13)

• **Comments/concerns from public**

Fredrick Sciuilli: spoke about his concerns about the Off-Leash Permit, he believes the permit process is flawed and should be reviewed by City Council

Kimberlie Young: spoke about her support for the Off-Leash Permit

In closing Dr. Lindsay, Director of Virginia Health Department, discussed the community concerns for Trap Neuter and Release or Colony Animals in Norfolk. Norfolk is a rabies endemic area with 400 - 600 annual exposure cases to rabies most with humans. Domestic animals are a buffer between wild animals and humans and why we require vaccinations. She voiced that she hopes the Board is considering how to minimize exposures. Dr. Lindsay brought up the concern about who would be the responsible party in cases of exposure from feral cats. She requested that the Board take the time to discuss these issues.

5. Assignments

Action	Assigned To	Notes
6.1-50.1 Registration and microchipping of dogs and cats Proposed changes to require microchipping of dogs and cats – the group did not vote at this time on this addition.	Jean	Jean will conduct research to find how other communities have addressed this and will get back to the group with different language. To be discussed at a later meeting
Format for providing recommendations to City Council	Rose	Rose will get the Board members an example of how other boards or commission make recommendations to City Council
Funding for spaying and neutering of animals at NACC	David	It was requested that David provide information on how the City will fund future spaying and neutering of animals at NACC once the NACC spay/neuter account is depleted.

6. Next Meeting

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	RECORDER
12.04.2013	5:30 pm	City Hall, 10 th Fl	Rose Armour
Agenda: TBA, available prior to the meeting at the City of Norfolk's Calendar at http://www.norfolk.gov/			